

Serial No. 10/619,746
Art Unit 1723

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 were presented for examination in the present application. The instant amendment cancels claims 1 through 6 without prejudice. Thus, claims 7 through 15 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

The Office Action requires Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits. The Office Action asserts that the election is required from one of the following alleged species:

Species I, claims 1 through 6, best shown in Figures 1 through 5, and

Species II, claims 7 through 15, best shown in Figures 6 through 8.

Applicant elects, with traverse, Species II, which reads on claims 7 through 15 and is shown in Figures 6 through 8. Specifically, Applicant requests examination of claims 7 through 15.

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions. See MPEP 803. It is respectfully submitted that searching and examining the subject matter of Species I along with elected Species II does not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully

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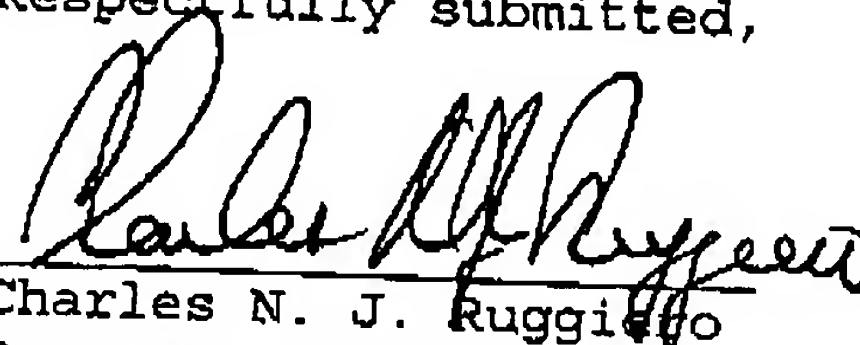
requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Requirement for Election with regard to Species I.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicant's attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 16, 2005



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